

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

4982
8.2

R

Newsletter

RURAL DEVELOPMENT



July 1970

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

No. 111

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REVERSES OUTMIGRATION IN KENTUCKY DISTRICT

AUG 21 1970

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Kentucky's 10-county Barren River Development District measures its rural development success in a variety of ways.

As the principal means of employment changed from agriculture to manufacturing, outmigration of the population was reversed. While the district experienced a net population loss of 7.6 percent in 1950-60, it made a net gain of 7.4 percent in the last measured period, 1960-64.

A total of 7,829 new jobs had been added to the district's economy between 1960 and 1967, a gain of 14.2 percent. Major industrial additions since then have increased the new jobs still more--one company was asking its employees to invite relatives who had moved away in leaner days to return to take the new jobs being offered.

While Western Kentucky University was expanding to an enrollment of 11,000 plus at Bowling Green, area leaders sparked establishment of a Western Area Vocational School now enrolling some 800 students.

Russellville, a farm-oriented community of 6,700, has 3,000 industrial jobs.

Several small communities and outlying areas have solved critical water and sewage problems with assistance from Federal agencies--at least eight of them have helped local leadership in the district's development.

These and several other aspects of growth and improvements in the district--including the 240,000-acre Mud River Watershed project--were viewed recently by Assistant Secretary Thomas K. Cowden, of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and other USDA officials on a brief visit with staff members of the State Rural Development Committees for Kentucky, Indiana and Tennessee.

Studies credit several keys to successful development in the district but in Butler County, at least, it began with a simple mailbox-painting project back in 1956.

60,000 NEW JOBS CREATED

Electric and telephone systems financed by the Rural Electrification Administration helped to create more than 60,000 new jobs in Rural America during 1969, REA announced recently.

This figure is based on survey reports from 51 percent of the REA-financed systems. These systems reported 37,000 direct jobs. Using a factor developed by the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, REA estimated that these direct jobs resulted in an additional 23,000 jobs in service and other affected industries.

The survey reports revealed that the jobs reported resulted from 787 commercial, industrial and community facilities projects that the systems helped launch, working with Federal agencies and other local organizations, public and private.

LEAFLET DESCRIBES POPULATION MOBILITY

From 1960 to 1966, the number of U.S. counties losing population was considerably reduced, compared with the 1950's. The number of areas in which conditions became attractive enough to produce a net immigration of people was greatly increased.

Only a seventh of the nonmetropolitan residents now live on farms.

In 1967, more than 40 percent of the urban population 14 years old and over consisted of nonmigrants--people who had never lived more than 50 miles away from their current residence. Nearly another 40 percent were migrants but were of urban background. Twenty percent of the urban population was of rural childhood origin.

These are some of the facts related in a new leaflet, "U. S. Population Mobility and Distribution," (ERS-436), issued by the Economic Research Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Single copies may be obtained without charge by writing: Division of Information, Office of Management Services, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250. Please include your zipcode.

NEW TOWNS REGULATIONS

Final regulations governing Federal guarantees of the obligations of private developers of new towns have been issued by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Amendments contained in the final regulations reflect observations of new-town developers, planners, national associations, and Federal agencies that responded to an invitation to submit suggestions when the New Town regulations were originally issued on December 18, 1969.

Copies may be obtained from the Office of New Communities Development, Room 7141, HUD Building, 451 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20410.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN 45 STATES

Local citizens have initiated Resource Conservation and Development projects in 45 States since 1964. The program was originally set in motion by Section 102 of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1962.

Some 68 applications have been authorized by the Secretary of Agriculture for USDA assistance. The projects cover 288 million acres in 398 counties. Of the total, 55 projects are in operation and 13 are in the planning stage. Fifty-one additional applications requesting RC&D project assistance are awaiting action.

The typical project area covers more than one county. Citizens organize, make inventories of resources, and develop plans for their more efficient use to solve local problems. The USDA Soil Conservation Service furnishes a project coordinator who is technically trained in resource conservation. He helps guide the local groups toward available assistance.

Watershed protection and flood prevention, water management, and the stabilizing of critical erosion areas are high-priority goals. Forest resource use, recreation facilities, fish and wildlife improvements, new industry, jobs and training, housing, roads, pollution abatement, solution of health and sanitation problems, and beautification are high on project sponsors' lists.

All USDA agencies are prime sources of help to implement project plans but aid also comes from other Federal departments, including Interior, Commerce, and Labor. State and local agencies, institutions, and private organizations also are participants.

As of June 30, 1969, approximately 5,000 project measures had already been activated in the project areas. At least 1,442 of these were completed and in operation. Another 1,461 were being installed.

Last July 1, five Rural Renewal Projects, with objectives similar to those in RC&D, were merged with the RC&D program.

RURAL ELECTRICS, FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION
JOIN TO PROMOTE RURAL HOUSING

The Farmers Home Administration and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association have begun a series of joint meetings between local electric co-op leaders and local FHA personnel to encourage rural electrics to take an action role in promoting rural housing. To date there have been statewide meetings in Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina and Missouri. Texas has held district meetings. Ohio, Tennessee and Alabama may also go the district route. Plans are still being formulated in other states.

The local electrics are invited to acquaint the public with the availability of FHA mortgage financing, and to help applicants qualify for loans. It is expected that some local electrics may sponsor building sites or housing developments in their service areas.

Similar meetings will be held with builders and realtors to invite their participation in the rural housing program.



POSTAGE & FEES PAID
United States Department of Agriculture

- 4 -

HOUSING STARTS GAIN IN RURAL AREAS

Rural people served by the home loan insurance program of the Farmers Home Administration are moving into new or improved homes at a 17.4 percent faster rate than a year ago, according to FHA.

The agency reported that in the first nine months of Fiscal 1970, it approved 43,748 home ownership loans totaling \$465.4 million, as against 37,277 loans totaling \$360.7 million in the corresponding period of fiscal 1969.

Loans for new one family homes under the rural program exceeded 25,000 through March, equaling the number approved for the entire fiscal year 1969. By contrast, new home starts in the nation as a whole declined by an estimated 15.3 percent during the nine-month period ended in March.

BRICK FACTORY BROUGHT JOBS TO RURAL SOUTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY

A case study just released by the U. S. Department of Agriculture indicates that a brick factory can provide the type of jobs which can be filled capably by the rural poor being forced out of agriculture and forestry by new technology.

It cites the case of Summerville, South Carolina, where local leadership combined a loan from the Area Development Administration in 1962 with local capital to erect a brick-manufacturing plant, which was employing 40 people by 1968 after adding fused silica dies to its production.

A copy of "Rural Industrialization in the Southeast Coastal Plain: Case Study of a New Brick Factory in Summerville, S.C." (AER 174) is available free on postcard request from the Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.